



August, 2005

Dear Michigan Citizens:

On July 6, 2005, Governor Jennifer Granholm unveiled her Blueprint for Preventing Unintended Pregnancies. This includes the ***Talk Early & Talk Often*** Parent Education Initiative.

The Governor's announcement came as a result of recommendations from an inter-agency workgroup with representatives from the Governor's Office, Department of Community Health, Michigan Department of Education, Department of Labor & Economic Growth, Michigan Women's Commission, Department of Human Services and the Michigan Surgeon General.

Talk Early & Talk Often is an initiative to help parents of middle school youth develop the skills necessary to talk with their children about abstinence and sexuality. This fall, a series of pilot workshops will be hosted by community and school groups across the state.

Governor Granholm recognizes that parents are the primary abstinence and sexuality educators of their children. Continued communication at home is vital in helping our young people avoid sexual relationships they are not yet prepared for that may have serious consequences including pregnancy, HIV and sexually transmitted infections. The ***Talk Early & Talk Often*** workshops will help parents gain knowledge and skills to communicate with their middle school children about abstinence and sexuality.

We hope you will take time to browse our web site www.michigan.gov/miparentresources. Here you will find the nearest workshop locations, directions for registering, as well as information for hosting a workshop in your community.

Thank you for your dedication to the health and well-being of Michigan youth. Together we can make a difference in their lives.

Sincerely,

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